



Date: December 31, 2014

Memo To: Town of Bluffton Town Council; Don Ryan Center for Innovation Board of Directors; Marc Orlando, Town Manager

From: David Nelems, Don Ryan Center for Innovation Executive Director

RE: DECEMBER 2014 DON RYAN CENTER FOR INNOVATION STATUS REPORT (Short month...)

Center Operations

- Misc. work on **Grant paperwork/reporting**
- Misc. **Town of Bluffton** meetings, operations and presentations
- Finished **Clemson training** via Skype
- Email blasts and registration process for upcoming **educational sessions**.
- Drafted the **third draw of SC Innovation grant money** in the amount of **\$8,819.24**
- Misc. **grant paper work** and calls with SC Dept. of Innovation.

Outreach and Strategic Relationships

- Met with Karl Kelly from Clemson in addition to Hope Parnell, the new director of the REDC, Matt Klein from SPIRO and one person each from the SBA and SBDC on site at the DRCI.
- Public **education session on "Introduction to Photoshop"**
- DRCI space used for a regional, (and monthly) **WordPress "Meet-Up."**
- Numerous meetings with Patricia Breen a local, retired businesswoman who is **managing the SCAD partnership** for us
- Working with **Palmetto Bluff** on a **January "Pitch Event"** to interested investors with three DRCI companies.
- Asked to join a sub council of Grant awardees to oversee quarterly events for the **SC Dept of Innovation**.
- Met with Beth Baggerly and Michelle Adams from **SC Works**
- Met with **Elaine Brown** (Former HBO executive) about possible DRCI relationship
- Met with Karl Radzins regarding a speech in February for the **Clemson/Beaufort County Senior Leadership Class**.
- Met with two possible **mentors**.
- Meeting with Rachel Anthony from **SCAD**.

Innovators

- **Currently** there are **9 innovators** in the Center (The DRCI is full)

- **Working with select innovators for a “Fast Pitch” investor event**
- **Met with two new potential innovators**
- **Met with every innovator at least once** (some multiple times) during the month
- **Calls/video conferences with Clemson**
- **See Innovator Status Sheet** as of December 31st.

Social media

- **Twitter: 109 followers**
- **Facebook: 162 likes.**